

College Readiness Benchmark – New!

What is the College Readiness Benchmark?

The PSAT/NMSQT College Readiness Benchmark is the score on each section that a student should meet or exceed to be considered on track to be college ready. Separate benchmarks are provided for sophomores and juniors (see table below).

The College Readiness Benchmark has been added to PSAT/NMSQT reporting to help educators have a better understanding of how many and also which students are on track to have the skills necessary for success in college. Equipped with this information, educators can support students who need extra help while there is still time for improvement.

Where is it reported?

The College Readiness Benchmark is reflected in several PSAT/NMSQT reports, including the Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) Report, College-Bound Junior and Sophomore State Summary Reports, and the optional Student Data File CD. SOAS reports and College-Bound Junior and Sophomore reports indicate the percentage of students who meet the college readiness benchmark for each section, while the Student Data File provides a yes/no composite score indicator for each student, identifying those who are on track for college readiness and those who are not. The College Readiness Benchmark is not reported on any reports for students.

How was the College Readiness Benchmark developed?

The PSAT/NMSQT College Readiness Benchmark is part of a series of indicators that help educators gauge college readiness at different points in a student's career. It was developed based on the SAT College Readiness Index, which was computed as part of an SAT validity study. The PSAT/NMSQT College Readiness Benchmark is also aligned to a ReadiStep indicator that will be available beginning in spring 2011.

For juniors, the PSAT/NMSQT benchmarks the score associated with a 65 percent likelihood of meeting the SAT benchmark; for sophomores, it is the score associated with a 65 percent likelihood of meeting the junior PSAT/NMSQT benchmark. For more information, view the report, *PSAT/NMSQT Indicators of College Readiness*, online at www.collegeboard.com/research.

Recommended uses

Designed to help educators gauge progress toward college readiness, the College Readiness Benchmark can help educators:

- See how many students are on track for college.
- Identify students who may need extra support while there is still time for improvement.
- Find students who may be ready for more rigorous course work.

The College Readiness Benchmark should not be used for tracking purposes or to keep students from participating in rigorous courses.

**PSAT/NMSQT COLLEGE READINESS BENCHMARKS
FOR 10TH- AND 11TH-GRADERS**

	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing	PSAT/NMSQT Composite*
11th grade PSAT/NMSQT	50	50	49	152
10th grade PSAT/NMSQT	49	47	48	145

*Composite score was computed independently of individual section scores.